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Commission on Narcotic Drugs
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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, including the seven thematic areas of the outcome document of the special session

Australia: draft resolution

Recognizing the needs of vulnerable populations in addressing the world drug problem

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 72/139 of 12 December 2017, in which the Assembly urged Member States to respect, protect and promote the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, with particular attention given to the health needs of the most vulnerable,

Recalling also Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 59/5 of 22 March 2016, in which it called upon Member States to develop, as needed, and implement national drug policies and programmes that take into account the specific needs of women and girls,

Recalling further Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/7 of 17 March 2017, in which it called upon Member States, in accordance with national and domestic legislation, to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate scientific evidence-based community, family and school age- and gender-sensitive drug prevention programmes and strategies addressing the needs of children and adolescents,

Reaffirming its decision, in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 60/1 of 17 March 2017, to continue to facilitate, in an inclusive manner, the active participation of civil society, including the scientific community and academia, in the work of the Commission, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and with the established practice of the Commission,

Gravely concerned about the social barriers, including poverty, that continue to hinder the access of women to treatment for drug use and, in some cases, a lack of sufficient resources allocated for removing those barriers, and fully aware that women are acutely affected by particular consequences of drug abuse, such as sexually

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transmitted diseases, and by the consequences of domestic violence and drug-facilitated crime,

Recognizing that the world drug problem continues to constitute a serious threat to public health and safety and the well-being of humanity, in particular children and young people and their families and communities,

Acknowledging that the *International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders* include the principle of responding to the specific needs of subgroups including, but not limited to, children and adolescents, the elderly, women, pregnant women, sex workers, sexual and gender minorities, ethnic and religious minorities, individuals in contact with criminal justice systems and individuals who are socially marginalized,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to take additional steps towards enhancing their understanding of the specific vulnerabilities and special needs of poorer and marginalized population subgroups and to strengthen efforts to ensure non-discriminatory access to health care and social services to address these vulnerabilities;

2. *Encourages* Member States to promote the effective, full and meaningful participation of all members of society, in particular those who are vulnerable, in the design, implementation and monitoring of drug laws, policies and programmes relevant to realizing the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

3. *Also encourages* Member States to ensure the involvement of women in all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programmes directed at or relevant to them, with particular emphasis on addressing the specific vulnerabilities and special needs of women, including issues related to pregnancy and childcare, women with substance use disorders in the justice and prison systems and the impact of other people's drug use on women, including exposure to domestic violence;

4. *Further encourages* Member States to identify the extent of drug use among their young people and to ensure the involvement of children and young people in all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programmes directed at or relevant to them, with emphasis on the socioeconomic impact of youth involvement in drug trafficking, the impact of parents' drug use on children and the role of peer influence and drug use as both a predictor and a result of other social and psychological problems;

5. *Encourages* Member States to evaluate the accessibility of drug treatment and other related services for elderly populations and the impact of family members' drug use on the elderly;

6. *Also encourages* Member States to work towards addressing the specific vulnerabilities associated with drug use disorders among indigenous populations and remote or disadvantaged communities, paying particular regard to overcoming barriers to accessing drug prevention and treatment interventions;

7. *Invites* Member States to undertake efforts to expand their understanding of the specific vulnerabilities associated with, and effective responses for, marginalized population subgroups within their jurisdictions, with priority given to those groups in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime data-collection system, including prison populations, sex workers and homeless people;

8. *Encourages* Member States to assist other countries, upon request, in identifying and addressing the specific vulnerabilities of population groups affected by high levels of drug production, trafficking or consumption, with specific reference to the impact of illicit drug cultivation, drug use in transit countries and the impact of drug trafficking on developing countries with limited resources for counter-narcotics activities;

9. *Invites* Member States to involve the scientific community and civil society in developing drug policies and programmes to address the special needs of vulnerable population groups;

10. *Urges* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the above-mentioned purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.